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FOR THE CHILDREN

The Short Story.

"Just a short one, Uncle Vance—a twenty, twenty short one," coaxed the children. And Uncle Vance laughed.

"Well, then, just a short one, chicks," he said. "Once there was a short boy who wore very short trousers indeed. He belonged to the Short family, and everybody called him 'Shorty' for short. He went a short distance to school, and, dear me, how fond he was of his pretty, short teacher! I expect that was because she gave him short lessons and held only short sessions of school."

"Shorty liked short things—you see. It ran in the Short family—unless it was something to eat. He didn't like short pieces of shortcake. He was very fond of shortcake. Sometimes he couldn't tell which he liked best—the or his pretty, short teacher."

"One day, a short time after the short story opens, something happened. Little Shorty missed a word in his spelling class. He couldn't spell short. All the other short boys laughed, but Shorty cried."

"You must stay in at recess, I am afraid," the teacher said shortly. "Short boys must study their lessons. There is no short cut to knowledge!"

"Poor little Shorty! He was short stop on the baseball nine, and they were short of substitutes. What would they do without him? There was a short shower, and then shortly it cleared off."

"I won't let Shorty say, 'I'll learn to spell short,' guess that's the shortest way out." And it was. So the trouble was short lived, for Shorty was not short witted. That was not one of his short traits. In short, he could spell even a short word if he set about it. So in short order he was out "short stopping" a grounder from the Shortest Boy of All's bat. It takes a boy who is not short winded to play baseball, you know, and Shorty could run as easily as a deer. But he was shortlighted. That was a drawback.

"With such a come home from school that night, Grandmother Short was just shortening a batch of doughnuts, and Mamma Short was giving Big Sister Short her lesson in shorthand. There was nobody to amuse him, so he decided to go up stairs and amuse the Short baby. He sang a short meter ballad, and once a short waisted lady in short dress came up and down and round about until somebody—either he or the Short baby or the short waisted dolly—was short of breath. And that is the end of my short story," said Uncle Vance.

The children clapped their hands with delight. "The oldest child said it was a splendid 'short story' indeed."

"Yes," the tiniest one said gravely, "and then it was such a nice long one too!"—Annie Hamilton Donnell in Youth's Companion.

A Telephone Whistle.

When the earpiece of a telephone receiver is held to the mouthpiece of the transmitter, a more or less shrill tone or whistle is heard in the receiver. This occurs when the apparatus is in good working condition and when the transmitter is on short circuit. This effect is seemingly due to a series of reactions analogous to the much more complex chain those which occur in an electric bell when its circuit is closed. A movement of the diaphragm of the receiver toward its magnet tends to weaken the pressure on the carbon of the transmitter, which causes a weakening of the current allowing the diaphragm to fall away, with the further result that the air column is compressed, increasing the pressure on the carbon again, and also increasing current strength, where by the diaphragm is again attracted, and this action is repeated over and over again.—Cassier's Magazine.

The Human Mouth.

It has been discovered that the human mouth is slowly but surely and steadily moving toward the left of the face, which will in time bring it some where in the neighborhood of the left ear. All the five great races of man have an uncontrollable tendency to lean only with the teeth which grow from the left jaw. The pressure upon the teeth grows rapidly than those on the right side of the mouth, and this in turn gives the upper and lower jaws an inclination toward the left.

It is the expressed opinion of many scientists who are foremost in the world's roll of professional honor that in the course of three hundred years hence all men mentioned will have completely changed its position and that it will then be situated rather nearer the left ear than to the nose.


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